(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Task force report on National Policy on Co-operatives

2096. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force appointed to implement a National Policy on Co-operatives has discussed the need for a single legislation for Co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, by what time the task force is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force has recommended a single liberalised Co-operative Societies Act for a State.

(b) The Task Force has since submitted its report.

Encouraging Agriculture on Hilly Land

2097. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to encourage agriculture on hilly land in the country where rain-fall is in abundance;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes in the North-Eastern States;

(c) how many new varieties of crops for the hilly area have been discovered with details on achievements; and

(d) what would be their extent of productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Development of agriculture in North-Eastern and hilly regions is one of the thrust areas of the Tenth Plan.